

Hyperion Factor

by Technuma

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Summary: Ash and Misty are told about rumored new pokemon species in a recently urbanized region called Chartreuse.

## 1. Default Chapter Title

By Yohann DeSabrais

><br>

><br>The Hyperion Factor

><br>Part 1: First Encounter

><br>

>The sky couldn't possibly have been bluer that day, with barely a<br>few puffy white clouds here and there, a gentle summer breeze

>pushing them along. Down on the ground, a little yellow  
pokemon<br>looked up to the sky in contentment, smiling as he enjoyed  
the

>wind fluffing his short fur.<br>

>"Piiiii... kaaaaa..." said Pikachu.<br>

>Making his way through the wild grass, pokemon trainer Ash  
Ketchum<br>joined the little electric mouse and sat besides him,  
sighing

>profoundly while reflecting back on the past few weeks.<br>

>Pikachu looked at his trainer, saying nothing as he waited to  
see<br>how to handle Ash's mood that day.

><br>"I have to face it, Pikachu, I really messed things up for the  
two

>of us." said Ash in a glum tone.<br>

>"Pikapi?" said Pikachu.<br>

>"Yes, Pikachu, I can see now that there's no point in  
blaming<br>anyone. It was my own stupid idea to choose Charizard as  
my third

>pokemon in the fifth round, and we lost because of that. All  
our<br>efforts laid to waste because I thought I could handle that  
loose

>cannon." apologized Ash.<br>

>"Pi, Pika, chu!" said the little mouse, objecting his

friend`s  
apologetic mea culpa.  
><br>"It`s no use denying it, Pikachu, I screwed up. I thought I was the  
>best trainer in the world, Richie just showed me what I loser  
I<br>really am. I`m sorry." said Ash, turning his eyes away to avoid  
>meeting the gaze of his tiny friend.  
>Pikachu couldn`t hear anymore of this self-pity from Ash.  
Reaching<br>out with his tiny hand, he touched his human master`s arm and  
>released a mild amount of electrical current.  
>"CHUUUUUU!!!!" he yelled as Ash reeled back in a stunned  
stupor,<br>smoke billowing from his mouth as he laid on the ground.  
><br>Pikachu blew the smoke off his finger just like he saw a sheriff  
do  
>with his gun in a movie a few weeks before. He was really tired  
of<br>Ash beating himself up over his defeat, and figured that a little  
>"shock therapy" might do him some good.  
>"Yeow..." complained Ash as he got back up. "Thanks, I needed  
<br>that." he said, his voice still a little shaky.  
><br>"Kachu!" said the little pokemon, his smile returning.  
><br>"Hey, there they are!" said a familiar voice, a young feminine  
>figure making her way through the tall grass. Misty joined  
Ash<br>and Pikachu, her little hatchling pokemon in her arms as  
always.  
><br>"Togepi!!!!" went the cute little pokemon who still wore part of  
>his cracked shell as pseudo-clothes.  
>"We heard the electrical shock all the way across the field."  
said<br>Misty as she sat down with Ash and Pikachu, laying down  
Togepi on  
>the ground.  
>"Chu!" said Pikachu, running to the cute auburn girl and cuddling  
<br>to her.  
><br>"Why did you come here? I thought you said you were tired of  
>hearing me whine." asked Ash.  
>"I am. But your mom asked me to bring you this." she  
replied,<br>reaching out in her jacket pocket and pulling out a  
calculator  
>shaped miniature encyclopedia. "You forgot it this morning  
after<br>you had breakfast. She insisted that you bring it along in  
case  
>you met a new pokemon and wanted to record it in."<br>  
>Ash opened Dexter and checked at the high number of pokemon  
he`d<br>tracked, but then closed it up right away.  
><br>"Thanks, but I don`t think I`ll see any new ones today. I`ve  
roamed  
>the surrounding area of pallet and seen just about every  
pokemon<br>there is. There`s a few legendary pokemons I`ve never met,  
of  
>course, but the odds of seeing them here are about as good as  
those<br>of Team Rocket actually managing to steal something." said  
Ash,  
>laughing a little as he did.  
>"How are you feeling today, anyway?" she wondered.<br>

>"Better, I guess. Funny how having a few hundred volts go through  
through<br>your spine can cram some sense in your head." replied Ash.

><br>Pikachu and Misty giggled at this last comment.

><br>"I`m supposed to meet professor Oak today. When I got up, I

>decided to cancel, but I`ve had time to think it through."  
he<br>continued.

><br>"You`re going after all?" guessed Misty.

><br>"Yeah, I guess I am." said Ash, pocketing his pokedex and heading

>back to town. "Coming, Pikachu?"<br>

>The little mouse hopped from Misty`s lap, running after Ash and<br>jumping on his shoulder. Misty looked at him walking confidently,

>unsure if he`d really worked out all his confidence issues.

She`d<br>know soon enough, most likely. For some reason, trouble always

>seemed to follow Ash around no matter what he did. If he was his<br>old self again, he`d easily make it through almost unscathed...

>unless he tried using Charizard again, that is. Then he`d get<br>scorched in the process like the last time.

><br>"Gepi?" went the little hatchling creature.

><br>"Yeah, Togepi, I`m a little worried too." said Misty. She was

>honest when she said she cared about Ash, even more than anyone<br>suspected... but she`d be damned if she let anyone find out.

><br>\* \* \*

><br>Somewhere on a road between Pallet and Viridian, two teenagers and

>their pokemon ally tried to make some sense out of their travelling<br>plans, without too much success.

><br>"I`m telling you that this map is outdated!" growled the girl with

>the red hair whose styling defied and the laws of both gravity and<br>reality.

><br>"Is it my fault you spent so much on facial care products that I

>had to buy the cheapest one?" protested her friend whose short<br>blue hair looked like it had received professional care just five

>minutes ago despite the amount of time he`d been walking around<br>on the roads of the Viridian area.

><br>"Shut up you two, I can`t hear myself think." observed their feline

>pokemon, a Meowth with the unique abilities to walk and talk like<br>a human being, skills he once taught himself out of love, those

>unrequited feelings further fueling his already strong resentment<br>toward society in general.

><br>"Jessie, where are we supposed to go, anyway? I can`t find the

>place anywhere on this map!" said the teenage boy.<br>

>"James, I told you before: Chartreuse Valley has been uninhabited<br>until just recently, that`s why you`ll only find it on the most

>recent maps! Now the boss wants us to go there, so get your ass<br>into gear!" ordered the girl

><br>"Yeah, these reports of unusually large pokemons over there make  
>it sound like there`s a good haul to be had!" said Meowth.<br>

>"That`s right, Meowth, we`ll get ourselves a bunch of rare  
pokemon<br>to please the boss and show him how good we really are!"  
agreed

>Jessie.<br>

>"We`ll make him proud of us yet!" said James, taking a  
dramatic<br>pose before looking confused once again. "What direction  
is

>Chartreuse again???"<br>

>Both Jessie and Meowth slapped their foreheads at once.<br>

>\* \* \*<br>

>Deep inside his fortress mansion, Giovanni looked onto  
the<br>television screens in his office, most of them picking up the

>various channels covering the Indigo Plateau championship.  
The<br>competitions had crowned this year`s new champion already, and

>were seeing her efforts in trying to defeat the four  
league<br>masters.

><br>This, however, bored the enigmatic leader of Team Rocket. With

>the push of a button, he switched his main viewscreen to  
the<br>various spy surveillance camera systems he`d set up in various

>cities. Giovanni was a man with many devious plans in motion  
at<br>once, and he wasn`t one to let any one of them fail by letting

>incompetent underlings go unsupervised.<br>

>And speaking of incompetent...<br>

>He pressed another button on the arm rest of his chair, and  
the<br>main screen was activated into videophone mode.

><br>"Jessie, James, Meowth, are you there?" he said as he made a  
call

>to his field agents.<br>

>"Yes boss, we`re here!" replied the red haired girl who took  
her<br>softest, sweetest tone to address her leader.

><br>"And we`re ready for action!" added James as he squeezed himself

>into the view range of the small cell phone they were using.<br>

>"Hey, let the boss see me too!" squealed a third voice  
offscreen.<br>

>"Yes, Meowth, I know you`re there as well." acknowledged  
the<br>hardened man, his expression refusing to show any emotion.

><br>"So what are our orders?" asked Jessie.

><br>"As you may have heard, rumors abound that a new pokemon specie

>has been seen in Chartreuse Valley. I want you two to find it,  
and<br>bring it back to me." said Giovanni, petting the purring  
Persian

>who was asleep on his lap.<br>

>"No sweat, it`s as good as caught!" assured James.<br>

>"We`re on the case, boss!" said Meowth who suddenly  
climbed<br>James` leg to be within sight of the cell phone, his cat  
face

>filling the whole of Giovanni`s viewscreen.<br>>"That`s what I`m afraid of..." mumbled Giovanni, sighing in despair<br>as the communication link severed.

><br>\* \* \*

><br>Arriving on Professor Oak`s compound, Ash and Misty were greeted by

>a small group of Nidorans, both males and females. The adorable<br>little pokemons were busy playing in the wide open stretches of

>grassland surrounding the professor`s lab, having a good time in<br>the warm sun.

><br>"They certainly look happy here." observed Ash.

><br>"Of course they are, professor Oak takes such good care of them!"

>replied Misty who hoped she`d get a chance to drop by the pond<br>where the professor kept the water pokemon left in his care.

><br>"Pika!" said Pikachu as he saw a small group of electric mice

>running around a few yards away at the edge of a small wooded<br>area.

><br>"Wanna go have some fun with them for a little while, Pikachu?"

><br>"PIKA PIKA!" he replied, hopping off Ash`s shoulder and joining

>with the other pokemons of his kind.<br>>"It`s been a long time since he`s been here with other Pikachu,<br>hasn`t it?" asked Misty, looking at her small electric friend as

>he ran to the woods.<br>>"It certainly has... I can hardly believe he and I have been<br>together for over a year now."

><br>"I know the feeling, Ash. It`s been two years now since I caught

>my first Staryu, and he`s been a Starmie for a year now. That<br>reminds me, I better drop by Cerulean to pick him up soon, and

>let my Staryu have a little exercise too!" said Misty as she<br>handed Togepi to Ash for a few moments, taking a pokeball from

>her pocket to unleash her starfish pokemon.<br>>"Staryu, come out to play for a while!" she said, a red beam<br>shooting out of the ball and releasing the pokemon inside...

>which instead turned out to be a short, stubby and confused<br>looking duck.

><br>"Psy?" he went.

><br>"PSYDUCK?!? Why do I ALWAYS take YOUR pokeball out of my pocket

>when I want my other pokemons??" she whined.<br>>Ash could hardly contain his laughter.<br>>"I think he likes you, Misty." he observed.<br>>She silently replied by bashing him behind the head with the<br>empty pokeball.

><br>"Oh well, come along, Psyduck. You need to stretch your legs too,

>I guess." conceded the red haired girl.<br>>"Psy."<br>>The two young trainers and their pokemons made their way along the<br>trail until they reached the large home of the famous pokemon

>researcher who had originally given Pikachu to Ash. He was  
busy<br>taking care of a large group of bird pocket monsters, feeding  
them  
>the various kinds of seeds they needed to keep their health  
at<br>their peak.  
><br>"Hello, Ash, I was beginning to wonder if you`d come. Your  
mother  
>has been telling me that you`ve been a bit under the weather  
this<br>past week." said the grey haired man dressed in his eternal  
  
>scientific labcoat, his nearly wrinkle free face glowing with<br>an  
equally permanent smile.  
><br>"Pikachu shocked some sense into me. It put some perspective in  
  
>my head, and gave me the chance to put that defeat behind  
me."<br>explained Ash.  
><br>"Good for you! Now you can learn from your defeat and become an  
  
>even better trainer now." agreed Oak.<br>  
>"Hello again, professor." warmly said Misty.<br>  
>"I`m glad to see you again, Misty. Your little Togepi seems to<br>be  
doing great as well!"  
><br>"He certainly is, professor." she replied.  
><br>"Psy." quacked her duck pokemon.  
><br>"That`s a lovely specimen of Psyduck you have there." observed  
  
>the professor.<br>  
>"Do you want him? Because I`d be glad to give you a chance  
to<br>study him if you want! Would two years be okay?" she was prompt  
  
>to offer. Seeing the professor hesitating to respond, she  
quickly<br>made a counter-offer. "Three years? Five? I wouldn`t mind  
going up  
>to ten years if you needed to, I`d be glad to contribute  
to<br>science in any way!!!!" she said, laughing nervously.  
><br>Ash and Oak both had big sweatdrops.  
><br>"I don`t think that`ll be necessary, Misty. I have plenty of  
  
>Psyducks here." said the professor.<br>  
>"So why did you call me here?" asked Ash, trying to change  
the<br>topic.  
><br>"Oh, goodness yes, I almost forgot. Let`s go to my lab, I`ll  
  
>explain everything."<br>  
>\* \* \*<br>  
>"Okay, I should have a pretty good haul today." said Juniper  
as<br>she picked up the six pokeball special package from the shelf  
  
>of the Chartreuse general market.<br>  
>Carrying the colorful carboard box with the Sylph company  
logo<br>prominently displayed on all sides, the blue haired thirteen  
  
>year old girl made no false impression that she was indeed  
a<br>pokemon trainer out for capture. Her two long ponytails shook  
  
>left and right as she looked left and right at the  
various<br>pokemon merchandise, her heavily caffeinated nerves  
twitching  
>like an hyperactive kangaroo on a sugar rush.<br>

>"It's such a nice day... there's sure to be a lot of bugs out<br>there!!!" she said out loud as she paid for her purchase at the cash register, solliciting a surprised expression from the<br>cashier.

><br>"You LIKE bugs?" he asked her.

><br>"Yeah, I think they're amazing! Wanna see my Beedrill?" she asked,

>taking a small pokeball from her jacket pocket.<br>

>"Err... no thank you... I'll take your word for it."<br>

>"Your loss. It's a beauty!" she said, putting it back in her pocket.<br>

>Walking out of the store, she wasted no time to rip open the<br>package and put the empty balls in her pocket, ready to be used.

>She pulled out her pokedex from her shirt pocket, flipping it open<br>to see which pokemon she hadn't seen before that she hoped she might meet along the way.<br>

>It didn't matter that she loved bugs above all other types, a full<br>pokedex would still look very nifty to show off to the trainers she met along her travels.<br>

>"Let's see... Geodude, Onix, Graveler, Diglett... lots of ground<br>and rock types I'm missing. Chartreuse has a lot of those, from what I heard, so I should see a couple along the way." she mumbled<br>to herself. "Well, time to go catch some. Beedrill, I'm gonna need you honey!"<br>

>She threw in the air a ball she had marked with a small bee sticker<br>and a large Beedrill came out, making a few jabs in the air with its large stingers to show off his skill.<br>

>"DRILL!!!" he said to Juniper, eager for a fight.<br>

>"Come on, let's go!" she said, and the two of them marched off<br>into the nearby forest where wild pokemons roamed free.

><br>\* \* \*

><br>"I'm telling you there was SOMETHING out there!!!" screamed a man

>to the Chartreuse city officer Jenny.<br>

>"Calm down, sir, just take it from the beginning and I'll see what<br>I can do to help!" said the calm police woman, managing to keep the frightened man from starting a mass panic among the people<br>who were starting to gather around them.

><br>"It was HUGE! And it ran after me, growling like it wanted to kill me!!!" said the man, fear shining in his eyes.<br>

>"Was it a wild pokemon?" asked Jenny.<br>

>"I'm not sure it was a pokemon... it was made of rock, like<br>an Onix, but it had LEGS! I've never seen or even heard of anything like that anywhere, and I'm an expert about the local<br>species!" he explained.

><br>A short distance from the small crowd, a trio of Team Rocket members were listening with great interest.<br>

>"A new pokemon specie... the boss was right, it is out there!"<br>said James.

><br>"Imagine what the boss will say when we bring it back to him...  
>and how much money he`ll shower us with!" added Jessie.<br>  
>"He`ll finally get rid of that mangy fleabag of a Persian  
and<br>I`ll be his number one kitty again!" purred Meowth.  
><br>"How are we supposed to catch a rock pokemon that large,  
>anyway? I`m still feeling pain from that giant Onix back in<br>the  
mountains near Pallet, and we dismally failed to catch  
>that one." complained James.<br>  
>"Don`t worry your pretty head with that, James, I have  
an<br>idiot-proof plan to accomplish that." said Jessie.  
><br>"It better be good, because James is as big an idiot as they  
>come!" snarled Meowth.<br>  
>"HEY! I resent that!" protested James who smacked the small  
cat<br>pokemon upside the head.  
><br>"Let`s go, we have a pokemon to grab!" ordered Jessie, pulling  
James  
>by the collar and Meowth by the skin of his neck.<br>  
>\* \* \*<br>  
>Professor Oak punched a few keys on his keyboard and called up  
a<br>large chart on his screen, displaying all the pokemons who go  
>through an evolution process at some point in their life.<br>  
>"I`m sure you`re both familiar with these species, and  
the<br>conditions required for their evolutions to take place." said  
Oak.<br>  
>"Of course." said Misty.<br>  
>"Err... yeah!" added Ash, trying to hide the fact that he  
had<br>trouble recognizing several of the evolved pokemons displayed  
>on the screen.<br>  
>"You see, this not a well known field. Some pokemons evolve<br>once  
or even twice in their life, but the natural process that  
>led these species to develop evolved forms is almost  
totally<br>unknown... but we might have a chance to study it now."  
said  
Oak.<br>  
>"How come?" wondered Ash.<br>  
>"We`ve been receiving reports of unusual pokemon species in<br>the  
area of Chartreuse valley, and it`s my theory that the  
>unique conditions there are making it possible for  
pokemon<br>species with no evolved forms to actually CREATE such a  
form,  
>and go up a step on the evolutionary scale." explained Oak.<br>  
>"So what would you like us to do?" asked Misty.<br>  
>"I`d like you to go see if you can find anything unusual  
over<br>there that could be making it possible for pokemon to grow  
larger  
>than the rest of their species in general. Finding a new  
evolved<br>form of any pokemon would be absolutely marvelous, if it  
were  
>convenient for you to get me one, but I refuse to have you  
take<br>any stupid risks, got it?"

><br>"Understood, professor." agreed the two young trainers.

><br>"Good lads! Now if you`ll excuse me, I have an experiment in progress which I have to monitor."<br>>\* \* \*<br>>After an hour of trekking around the woods, Juniper was beginning<br>to be slightly annoyed.

><br>"Where are all those huge bugs that are supposed to be hanging in this valley?" she asked to Beedrill.<br>>The pokemon shrugged, unable to give her a satisfying response.<br>

>"Yeah, I know, I`m kinda disappointed myself... hey, what`s that?"<br>she said, hearing a rustling sound in the brush nearby.

><br>"Who`s there?" she asked.

><br>A large stagbeetle with thorn-covered pinsers on its head walked out into the open. Juniper held her breath, as the bigger than<br>average Pinsir was every inch as tall as she was.

><br>"WHOA!!! PAYDIRT!!!" she blurted out.

><br>Beedrill flew into action, slashing at the large insect who quickly blocked with its solid pinsers.<br>

>"Yeah, that`s it, Beedrill! Show him what you`re made of!" she<br>encouraged her pokemon who traded blows with the huge insect at a dizzying speed, lunging and hacking in between parries and dodges.<br>

>Eventually, the highly trained Beedrill outlasted the wild Pinsir<br>who began to show signs of exhaustions. The young girl saw the opening her precious one needed to make the final blow.<br>

>"TWIN NEEDLE!!!" yelled Juniper to her Beedrill.<br>>The pokemon complied to the order, using his fast stinger attack to<br>deliver a pair of weakening strikes to the rather large Pinsir which

>Juniper had just stumbled unto by sheer luck.<br>

>"Pin...sir..." yelped the wounded bug as it crashed on the ground,<br>losing the battle that it had fought so bravely. In the end, the bee pokemon had proved the stronger one.<br>

>"Well fought, Beedrill!" said Juniper, picking an empty pokeball<br>and tossing it on the knocked out Pinsir. The ball opened on contact, a red energy beam grabbing the bug and sucking it<br>inside the ball as it dematerialized the pokemon`s physical form and loaded the pattern inside its complex inner workings.<br>

>Juniper bit her lip as she saw the ball shift and roll, as the<br>pokemon caught inside still fought against the power of the compression field and made a final effort to escape. It proved<br>useless in the end, as the ball stopped moving and a small red light blinked on the ball`s surface.<br>

>Pinsir had been captured.<br>

>"YEAH! I got it!!!" she yelled, happily hugging her Beedrill.<br>

>"Beedrill!" said the flying insect, proud of the battle's outcome.<br>

>The young girl picked up the ball, smiling. "This one's going to<br>make a GREAT addition to my competition roster for next year's

>Indigo Plateau championship. And I've got a whole year to train<br>him too!" she said to her Beedrill, who nodded in agreement.

><br>"I'm telling you, this little Jiu-Jitsu Bellsprout that kicked our asses last week is going to pay big time if we face off<br>against its trainer again." Juniper added.

><br>She then went completely silent. She thought she heard something.

><br>Another bug pokemon, maybe? No, the ground was starting to shake.

>She pulled out her pokedex, ready to identify whatever it was that<br>was making its way in her direction.

><br>"It's a rock type for sure, and a heavy one." she thought, barely

>managing to keep under control her tendency to word out loud<br>everything that went through her mind.

><br>Crawling silently through the underbrush with Beedrill following close by, she stumbled upon something absolutely remarkable. It<br>looked sort of like an Onix- it had its head and the same long trademark body, except that this beast didn't have a segmented<br>body. It looked more like a dragon, with four muscular and clawed legs.<br>

>Stunned, she pointed her pokedex to this strange creature.<br>

>"No entry for this pokemon." was the reply from the small digital<br>encyclopedia.

><br>"Well, whatever that is, it's a pokemon... but a bigass one, that's for sure." she said out loud, realizing too late that<br>she had just given away her position.

><br>The large beast turned its head in her direction, making direct eye contact with her. The long growl it let out was not a very<br>reassuring sound to her ears.

><br>"Just stay calm, Beedrill..." she whispered to her friend. "Maybe if we don't appear aggressive, it'll just walk away and leave us<br>alone to..." she added in a hushed tone, but got interrupted by the massive beast.<br>

>"DRAGONIX!!!" it screamed before starting to charge her way.<br>

>"Oh, bloody hell... RUN!!!!" she yelled to Beedrill before making<br>a run for it as well. Suddenly, her luck seemed to have vanished in a hurry.<br>

><br>To be continued

> <p><p>

## 2. Default Chapter Title

By Yohann DeSabrais

><br>  
>The Hyperion Factor<br>  
>Part 2: Darwin`s Oversight<br>  
><br>It wasn't like her whole day had been going bad. Most of it had been  
>pretty good so far for Juniper. The pokemon center where she`d spent<br>the night had some blueberry pancakes on the breakfast menu, the  
>spare pokeballs she bought were on special, she found and caught a<br>ridiculously large Pinsir...  
><br>Overall, everything had been going right until that point. With the  
>possible exception of a monstrously large pokemon on a vicious<br>rampage, this would have been a day to remember. It would still be  
>just that, of course, except that she`d rather forget about it<br>instead. In the meantime, the abominable beast was doing all it  
>could to crush her to a bloody pulp. That one stroke of bad luck<br>was throwing the whole balance out of whack as it overshadowed  
>every little detail that had turned out good.<br>  
>"DRAGONIX!!!" screamed the pokemon as it rammed its massive granite<br>body against the tree unfortunate enough to have been chosen by  
>Juniper as a perch to stay out of the creature`s range.<br>  
>She held on for dear life to the tree trunk, praying for the branch<br>she sat on to hold on and not give under her weight. Her loyal  
>Beedrill flew around her, but was obviously overwhelmed by the<br>Dragonix`s massive strength to even dare attempt to battle. He  
>wished that his mistress had been able to fly away as he could<br>do, but unfortunately he had learned early on that humans were  
>simply unable to defy gravity.<br>  
>"Oh shit, why does this sort of crap always have to happen on a<br>tuesday?" she said out loud, cursing loudly in a colorful language  
>as the tree shook violently with each beastly ramming charge.  
>"I<br>HATE TUESDAYAAYAAYS!!!" she cried out, her voice echoing in the  
>deserted woods.<br>  
>Well, not so deserted at any rate. A pair of teenagers was making<br>its way to her location at that very moment, homing in on Juniper`s frantic screaming.<br>  
>"You gotta admit, that girl`s got some lungs on her!" said the<br>cat pokemon walking along with them.  
><br>"You`re telling me, she`s going to lead us straight to this new pokemon and allow us to catch it for the boss!" said Jessie, her<br>eyes glowing with excitement as she imagined the mountains of  
>cash Giovanni would lay at her feet.<br>  
>"Yeah, the reward he`ll give us will make it worth carrying this<br>heavy gear around!" said James, painfully walking under the

weight  
>of the equipment required for Team Rocket`s latest scheme.<br>

>"Yeah, for once we`ll CATCH the pokemon we aim to get!"  
observed<br>Meowth. Jessie wanted to protest and mention some of  
their earlier  
>successes, but she changed her mind when she remembered that  
they<br>didn`t have any yet.  
><br>"Just get the gear ready, I think we`re there." she ordered to  
her  
>male accomplices.<br>  
>\* \* \*<br>  
>"Hey Misty, we`re almost there." said Ash as he gently nudged<br>the  
water pokemon trainer out of her sleep.  
><br>"Hmm, what?" she mumbled, still half asleep.  
><br>"Our bus is almost in Chartreuse city, we`ll be there in a few  
minutes." replied Ash, petting his friend Pikachu who was  
sitting<br>on his lap and enjoying a snack. "I think you enjoy going  
on  
>a bus, don`t you?"<br>  
>"The movement makes me feel sleepy, I can`t help it. That`s why<br>I  
always go everywhere by bicycle whenever I can. That reminds  
me..." she said, her sharp mind focusing once again.<br>  
>"I know, I know... I owe you for that bike of yours I  
trashed."<br>sighed Ash, tired of being reminded of his disastrous  
first  
>meeting with Misty.<br>  
>"I was going to say that we need to get to the pokemon center  
when<br>we arrive, but thanks for mentionning the bicycle, I`d almost  
forgotten." replied Misty in a tone dripping with venom.<br>  
>"Great, just great..." thought Ash. "I must be having the  
worst<br>day anyone ever had!"  
><br>\* \* \*  
><br>"HEEEEEEELP!!!" screamed Juniper who gripped the tree trunk with  
both arms, panicking when she heard an ominous cracking  
sound<br>after the Dragonix`s last charge.  
><br>The monster had heard it too, as it growled a mean spirited  
laugh that scared the Beedrill out of his mind. He  
desperately<br>wanted to do something, but he didn`t know what.  
><br>Backing up a few yards, the enormous pokemon down below took  
one final charge, running head on into the tree with a<br>deafening  
sound of wood shattering into a thousand splinters.  
>Juniper yelled when she felt the tree go down, wondering which<br>of  
the fall to the ground or the Dragonix waiting for her there  
would be the one to kill her. Seeing her faithful companion  
<br>flying straight for her, she reached out forward and grabbed on  
to his hind legs as he flew by.<br>  
>The courageous bug flapped his insect wings faster and  
harder<br>than he ever had in his life, trying his best to act as a

>makeshift parachute to the young girl. He did manage to break<br>her fall somewhat, though not quite preventing her from getting  
>a little bruised on the landing.<br>  
>The Dragonix slowly walked up to her, seemingly to take time  
to<br>enjoy the final part of the hunt and make its kill last for as  
  
>long as it could.<br>  
>That's when the most absurd thing happened. Two teenagers  
dressed<br>in weird white uniform with a big red letter R on their  
vests  
>appeared out of nowhere, taking dramatic poses to recite  
a<br>strange verse of their own invention.  
><br>"PREPARE FOR TROUBLE!!!!" said Jessie.  
><br>"MAKE IT DOUBLE!" said James.  
><br>"Huh?" blurted Juniper, Beedrill and Dragonix coming to a  
  
>sudden halt to stare at these two weirdos who were obviously<br>out  
of place from some kind of circus act.  
><br>"To protect the world from devastation-"  
><br>"To unite all people within our nation-"  
><br>"To denounce the evils of truth and love-"  
><br>"To reach out to the stars above-"  
><br>Juniper had no idea who they were, but they'd get killed if they  
  
>kept up this bizarre act.<br>  
>"JESSIE!"<br>  
>"JAMES!"<br>  
>"Team Rocket blast off at the speed of light!"<br>  
>"Surrender now, or prepare to fight!"<br>  
>"Meowth, that's right!"<br>  
>Silence fell among the disbelieving onlookers. Neither the  
girl<br>nor the two pokemon knew for sure what to do about them.  
  
><br>"Quick James, while it's standing still!!!" said Jessie to her  
  
>ally who strapped on his back a heavy looking backpack with  
a<br>large watergun attached to it. "FIRE!!!"  
><br>Squeezing the trigger, the blue haired boy unleashed a powerful  
  
>stream of water upon the rock body of the Dragonix. The  
beast<br>reeled back under the stream of liquid, knocked into a  
senseless  
>daze as it was struck by an element against which it was weak.<br>  
  
>"Yeah, this is working!" said Jessie, her expression  
changing<br>when she noticed the water stream wither and go down to a  
trickle,  
>their weapon suddenly out of ammunition.<br>  
>"Uh oh, this ain't good..." commented Meowth.<br>  
>"I told you we should have spent more for the LARGER  
water<br>reserve pack!" protested James.  
><br>"Hey, you're the one who complained about having to carry the  
  
>extra weight around!" snapped Jessie.<br>  
>"Err... guys... the pokemon..." said Meowth, trying to point  
out<br>that Dragonix was getting his senses back.  
><br>"SHUT YOUR MEOWTH!" yelled both Jessie and James to the cat  
  
>pokemon, oblivious to the impending danger.<br>  
>Juniper still didn't know what was going on, but decided

to<br>follow the advice of her Beedrill and hightail it out of there

>while those two weirdos were distracting the Dragonix.<br>

>The ground suddenly shaking under their feet brought

the<br>squabbling Rockets to realize what their Meowth was trying to

>say: the hulking pokemon was charging their way. They barely<br>had

time to dodge the incoming monster.

><br>"THAT`S IT, I`ve had enough of him! ARBOK, LICKITUNG, GO!!!"

>said the red haired girl, her face twisted from rage. She

threw<br>her pokeballs to release a giant purple cobra and a rather

>bizarre stumpy creature with an unimaginably longue tongue.<br>

>"Arbok, poison sting! Lickitung, lick attack!!!" she ordered

them.<br>

>The snake opened its jaws and spat out a stream of

poisonous<br>sparks of light while its pink companion stretched out

its tongue

>to give a paralyzing lick to the aggressive creature.

Arbok`s<br>attack just bounced off, while Lickitung scraped the

fragile

>surface of his tongue against the rough granite hide of

his<br>opponent.

><br>"We need a GRASS type pokemon here!" said James in an

>uncharacteristic display of intelligence. "VICTREEBELL, GO!"<br>

>The enormous carnivorous plant leapt out of the small red

and<br>white ball thrown by the blue haired boy, going straight for

>the closest and most appealing source of food currently<br>available

to him, namely James himself.

><br>"Not me, attack the pokemon! The pokemon!!!" protested James,

>his voice muffled as he tried to extricate himself from his<br>own

Victreebell`s deep stomach.

><br>"DRAGONIX!!!" yelled the massive beast as it charged the inept

>Team Rocket and their pokemon, making a direct hit and

sending<br>them flying high in the sky, disappearing in the horizon

as the

>trio screamed their usual admission of defeat...<br>

>"Looks like Team Rocket`s blasting off agaaaaaaaaain...<br>

>Juniper limped back to town with the help of Beedrill, but

she<br>still couldn`t figure out who Jessie and James were.

><br>"Beedrill... what the HELL just happened?" she asked him

>rethorically, to which the puzzled bug pokemon just silently

<br>shrugged his shoulders in incomprehension.

><br>"Yeah, same for me, I`ll be damned if I know who these jokers

>were."<br>

>\* \* \*<br>

>"You know, it`s pretty amazing that a town that didn`t exist

just<br>three years ago already has a pokemon center." observed Misty

as

>she looked at the beautifully designed bulding  
prominently<br>featuring a pokeball on the top of its dome.

><br>"I`ve heard that the local trainers are already having tryouts

>to determine who will be the gym leader once the pokemon  
league<br>officially sanctions their gym." added Ash, reading some

>information about Chartreuse city from a tourist guide given  
to<br>him by professor Oak.

><br>"Pika!" said Pikachu, noticing that a lot of people in the city

>were walking with their pet pokemon.<br>

>"You`re right, Pikachu, this town is very pokemon  
friendly!"<br>agreed Ash.

><br>"Let`s go in, then, shall we?" suggested Misty.

><br>"Good idea. If anyone can tell us more about these new pokemon

>sightings, we`re sure to find them there." said Ash.

"Besides,<br>I`m getting hungry. Would you like a bite to eat,  
Pikachu?"

><br>"Pika pika!"

><br>Walking in the center, they could see that some things never

>changed no matter where you went. Among those, the oh so  
familiar<br>face of nurse Joy, the exact mirror image of all the  
other Joys

>that Ash and Misty had ever encountered on their travels.<br>

>"Hello there, welcome to the Chartreuse pokemon center, how can<br>I  
help you?" she said, smiling radiantly as always.

><br>Ash smiled nervously, creeped out that yet another nurse Joy

>perpetuated this genetic running gag. Noticing her  
friend`s<br>discomfort, Misty stepped forward and spoke for the both  
of them.

><br>"Hello, we`d like to rest our pokemon a little and get something

>to eat." she said.<br>

>"Gepi!!!!" went her little hatchling pokemon, waving around  
his<br>tiny arms.

><br>"Oh, that is such a darling pokemon! Where did you find him?"

>asked the nurse.<br>

>"I sort of stumbled into his egg before he hatched. There`s<br>still  
a lot we don`t know about him, but hopefully we`ll learn  
a lot." said Misty.<br>

>"Oh, I see, I thought that maybe you found him in the  
woods.<br>There`s been a lot of reports of unusual pokemons being  
spotted

>there recently." said Joy.<br>

>"Any words on what they look like?" asked Ash.<br>

>"If you buy me a coffee, I`ll tell you what I saw." said  
someone<br>behind them. Turning around, Ash and Misty saw a blue  
haired girl

>who had apparently been put through hell, her clothes ripped  
up<br>in several places and her arms covered with bruises and  
scratches.

><br>"Dear lord, what happened to you?" said Joy, horrified to see a

>young trainer in such a state.<br>>"I came here to heal my pokemon... what else?" Juniper responded,<br>pulling a few pokeballs from her pocket. "So tell me, kid, are

>you interested in my story or not?" she asked Ash, giving him<br>a smile that spoke volumes about her attitude. A lot of people

>would have described her using the word "suicidal", though she<br>preferred using the term "bold".

><br>"Err... we`ll also be having some coffee, please..." mumbled

>Ash, slightly taken aback.<br>>\* \* \*<br>>"How far do we have to go?" complained James, his sore back<br>putting him in constant pain.

><br>"I told you before, as far as we need until we find a phone booth!" snapped Jessie.<br>>"This road is almost endless!" observed Meowth, his paws in a<br>lot of pain after walking so much following his brutal landing.

><br>"Just shut up and keep walking!" replied Jessie.

><br>"We wouldn`t have to be walking if you hadn`t broken your landing

>with the cell phone!" protested James.<br>>"It`s hardly MY fault if the cell phone happened to be in my<br>pocket at the time! How was I supposed to know we`d end up in

>this situation?" asked Jessie. She looked at her two teammates<br>who just stared at her silently, their faces indicating that

>they were about to remind her of the Team Rocket track record.<br>

>"On second thought, don`t answer that question." she added.<br>

>"Hey, look over there!!!!" said Meowth, pointing to an object<br>in the distance. The other two squinted and identified the

>faraway shape on the side of the Chartreuse main highway as a<br>phone booth.

><br>"YES!!!!" they all yelled, their pain a long gone memory as they

>ran with all their speed.<br>>Once they reached the phone a few minutes later, Jessie dropped a<br>coin in the slot and dialed the one number where she knew she

>could get help.<br>>"Hello, boss, Jessie here... we`re reporting on our progress."<br>she said.

><br>"How does he sound?" whispered James.

><br>"He seems happy to hear from us again, almost surprised to get any

>news from us at all. Almost like he didn`t expect us to survive<br>or something!" she replied.

><br>"That proves without a doubt why he sent us... because he trusted

>us to live through the greatest dangers he could find!" explained<br>James in the usual self-delusion that Team Rocket lived in.

><br>"You got THAT right, James!" agreed Jessie, trading a victory

>sign with her partner.<br>

>"So what is the boss saying?" wondered Meowth.<br>>"He wants to know what happened..." she whispered to Meowth.<br>"You see, boss, we did see the pokemon everyone was reporting,<br>>even battled it. Well, we got sort of... trashed. This is why<br>we're calling from a booth, the cellular is trashed too." she explained to Giovanni, expecting to get chewed up... but her<br>expression went from fearful to happily surprised when she heard>what he had to tell her.<br>>"Yes, sir, I know that this mission of the utmost importance, and<br>if you'll just help us out a little, I'm sure we will succeed...>what? You will? Oh, that's incredible!" she said.<br>>"What's he saying?" asked James.<br>>"The boss... he's sending in THE TECH!" said Jessie, covering the<br>receiver with her hand as she told James the good news.

><br>"You're serious? The Tech?!? That's amazing!!!" said James.

><br>"Yes, boss... okay... thank you again, you won't be disappointed!" concluded Jessie before hanging up.<br>>"Wow... the Tech... we're certain to catch Dragonix now!!!"<br>said James, ecstatic with this sudden turn of events.

><br>Meowth still couldn't see what was so amazing about all this.

><br>"Who is the Tech, anyway?"><br>Jessie and James looked at him as if he'd asked what was so important about breathing air.<br>>"You never heard of the Tech?" asked James, Meowth's confused<br>expression giving him his answer.

><br>"He's a former researcher from Sylph who joined Team Rocket shortly after the boss tried to take over the company. He had<br>willingly teamed up with us, and he remained loyal to our cause after we failed to become the owners." said Jessie.<br>>"The guy is a legend, he has an uncanny knack to use seemingly<br>useless pokemon and becoming unbeatable in battle using them!" said James.<br>>"I heard he beat an Alakazam using a Machop!" mentionned Jessie.<br>>"I heard he won over an Electrode using a MAGIKARP!" added James.<br>>"So this guy is good?" asked Meowth.<br>>"This guy is a legend among the Rockets! I'm surprised you never<br>heard of him... and now, he's coming here under our direct command!" said James.<br>>"Yeah... just imagine, having the Tech under our orders!!!" said Jessie who giggled happily.

><br>\* \* \*><br>The lab of the man who went only by the nickname "Tech" was something to behold, insofar as it was a mess beyond belief.<br>Out of the chaos of this workshop, however, came the genius level inventions that he had made himself a name for.<br>

>Before quitting the Sylph company, the Tech had been working  
on<br>their most secret project, the Masterball. A single prototype

>had been created, lost, and its blueprints subsequently  
destroyed,<br>seemingly putting the dream of this ultimate pokeball  
out of reach

>for ever... or so it seemed. Using his phenomenal memory, his<br>own  
theories which he had contributed to the project and a good  
>part of intuition combined with insane ideas, he had recreated<br>on  
his desk a near approximation of the Masterball.

><br>The man in his late twenties looked upon his creations, a set

>of three ultra balls modified by his skilled hands to  
increase<br>nealry tenfold the power of compression field and  
decrease the

>initial capture` s processing time by a factor of four. Each  
one<br>of those balls would allow him to capture the most powerful

>pokemon in the world without even having to weaken or  
paralyze<br>them first.

><br>Assuming they worked at all, of course, as these "hyper balls"

>were untested as of yet.<br>

>The videophone on his desk rang- the caller ID function  
showed<br>him that the person making this call was none other than  
the

>leader of Team Rocket himself.<br>

>"Hey there, Giovanni." said Tech.<br>

>"Greetings, old friend. Is your little toy ready yet?" asked  
<br>Giovanni.

><br>"Certainly is, I had just enough materials to make three, which

>should be enough to catch one immensely strong pokemon and  
know<br>for sure if my hyper balls work properly." said the odd man.

><br>"If your hyper ball is an inexpensive replacement to the

>Masterball, would not a single one be sufficient to test  
its<br>effectiveness?" observed the Rocket leader.

><br>"True, if it wasn` t for a small design flaw in the hyper ball,

>I would really need only one."<br>

>"That small flaw would be...?"<br>

>"If my aim is bad and I miss the pokemon with my throw...  
the<br>compression field of the activated ball collapses after a few

>seconds and the hyper ball detonates like a  
fragmentation<br>grenade." explained the scientist.

><br>"I can see how that would be annoying." agreed Giovanni.

><br>"So what do you have for me to test my new toys on?"

><br>"My field agents have located a new specie in Chartreuse valley.

>It is quite powerful, and will provide adequate challenge for  
you.<br>You will meet them in Chartreuse city immediately, and they  
will

>guide you to its location." explained Giovanni.<br>

>"This is a pretty dangerous assignment, you know. How  
attached<br>are you to those agents?" wondered Tech.

><br>"They are quite expendable, which is why I sent them in the

first

>place. You are free to use them as bait and sacrifial pawns  
as<br>you see fit. Is that an ethical or moral problem for you?"

>asked the Rocket leader, his expression changing as he waited<br>to  
see if the Tech was going to go soft on him.

><br>"Hell no. I just wanted to know if you were adamant on seeing  
them

>come back after this is all wrapped up in a neat little  
pokeball.<br>You ARE aware of my track record regarding... shall we  
say,

>teamwork record?"<br>

>"All too aware, to be honest." said Giovanni. "That's why I  
sent<br>in those incompetent morons to assist you, because I won't  
have

>any trouble sleeping when you come back alone from Chartreuse."<br>

>The videophone call broke off, leaving the Tech to gather the<br>few  
things that he needed for his mission. He smiled. This was

>going to be fun.<br>

>\* \* \*<br>

>"Oh yeah, that's what I needed!" said Juniper in contentment  
as<br>she sipped a cup of piping hot coffee.

><br>"That pokemon must have been really strong to knock down that

>tree you were hiding in." observed Misty.<br>

>"Oh yes, incredibly powerful. I wouldn't want to face that  
thing<br>in battle again!" she said in between two sips.

><br>"How did you get away from it anyway?" asked Ash.

><br>"Two weird trainers just waltzed in reciting a poem, and grabbed

>the Dragonix's attention. I was lucky that they gave me  
the<br>distraction I needed to get the hell out of there, but they

>weren't quite skilled enough to escape from it themselves.

They<br>got clobbered up pretty bad themselves, from what I saw." she

>said.<br>

>"Did their weird poem start by \*Prepare for trouble and make  
it<br>double\*, by any chance?" asked Misty.

><br>"And did they travel with a TALKING Meowth too?" added Ash, who

>also found Juniper's description oddly familiar.<br>

>The young trainer tried to remember her encounter, and nodded  
as<br>she seemed to recall that the cat pokemon DID say more than  
just

>his own name. In addition, their corny intro was something  
she<br>could never forget, no matter how hard she tried.

><br>"You know them?" she asked.

><br>Ash and Misty sighed.

><br>"Unfortunately, yes we do. We can never seem to go anywhere

>without running into those bozos. The only bright point  
about<br>them is that they're too incompetent to ever succeed in any  
of

>their hair-brained schemes." said Ash.<br>

>"Yeah, they never seem to ever get anything done." agreed Misty.<br>

>"You haven't told me why you're interested in this new specie,<br>by  
the way. Somehow, I can tell that it's more than just typical

>trainer interest." said Juniper.  
>"You called that one right." agreed Ash. "We were sent in  
by  
professor Oak to investigate."  
><br>"You two know professor Oak?"  
><br>"Yes, he's the one who gave me my Pikachu."  
><br>"Pika!" said Pikachu, hopping on Juniper's lap and hugging her.  
><br>"Pikachu's a pretty good judge of character, if he likes you  
>then it means that you must be a very nice person." said Ash.  
><br>"You seem like very nice people yourselves... what are  
your  
names?" asked the blue haired girl as she scratched Pikachu  
>behind the ears to his great pleasure.  
>"I'm Ash."  
>"I'm Misty."  
>"Glad to meet you, I'm Juniper... hey, aren't you the  
Cerulean  
city Misty, the gym leader?"  
><br>"Yes, I am. Water pokemon are my passion!" said Misty.  
><br>"Wow, pleased to meet you! I was going to drop by Cerulean in  
>a few weeks to challenge you for a badge!" said Juniper.  
>The two girls began chatting away back and forth, leaving a  
very  
frustrated Ash outside of the conversation. He yawned loudly  
as  
>the girls kept on chatting, almost falling asleep from boredom.  
>"What pokemons are you carrying with you anyway?" asked  
Misty  
with great interest.  
><br>"Well, most of them are being healed by nurse Joy right now, but  
>I do have one left with me who hasn't fought in a few days.  
You'll  
absolutely love him, he's ADORABLE!!!" said Juniper with  
big hearts  
>sparkling in her eyes as she took a pokeball from her pocket.  
>"WAI! Can I see him, pretty please???" asked Misty with the  
same  
look on her face.  
><br>"Sure! Say hello to my little CATERPIE!" said Juniper as a small  
>green caterpillar pokemon formed on the cafeteria table,  
staring  
at Misty with its big round black eyes.  
><br>Misty looked at it as her expression grew livid... then she  
>let out a mind shattering shriek of terror.  
><br>to be continued...  
> <p><p>

### 3. Default Chapter Title

By Yohann DeSabrais  
><br>  
>The Hyperion Factor  
>Part 3: Collision Course  
>"Did someone get hurt?!?" repeatedly asked the frantic Joy as  
she  
ran into the cafeteria, alerted by the horrid shriek that tore

>through the whole pokemon center, getting everybody`s attention.<br>

>She was expecting to see somebody with broken bones or deep cuts<br>from a broken cup, but instead she found something totally

>different, namely Misty holding on to one of the cafeteria`s<br>overhanging light fixtures, shivering in pure terror.

><br>"It`s okay, Caterpie, she didn`t mean to scream like that, you

>just scared her..." Juniper said to her traumatized pokemon,<br>cuddling it as it trembled from the stress it just suffered.

><br>"HOW did she get all the way up there?!?" wondered Joy as she

>looked at Misty who had just displayed amazing acrobatic skills<br>to climb up to the hanging light.

><br>"I`m not entirely sure myself, it all happened so fast!" answered

>Ash.<br>

>"Pika..." said Pikachu, staring at Misty who was scared out of her<br>mind.

><br>"I`m sorry if I scared your friend, Ash... I had no idea she was

>afraid of bugs like that. I love them so much myself, it`s easy to<br>forget that some people just can`t stand them at all." said

>the blue haired girl.<br>

>"Misty`s freaked out every time she ever encountered a bug since<br>I`ve known her. Do you have other bug pokemon, by the way?"

>asked Ash.<br>

>Juniper`s face went pale as she realized which pokemon she was<br>currently carrying in her roster.

><br>"Well... I`ve got a Pinsir... and Beedrill... a Venonat... oh

>boy, let`s face it, it`s just not going to work between my little<br>darlings and Misty!" she said.

><br>Ash sighed.

><br>"Gepi?" said Togepi, looking up at his terrified trainer.

><br>"How do we get her down, now?" asked Juniper.

><br>"Your guess is as good as mine." said Ash.

><br>\* \* \*

><br>With total disregard for speed limits and safety, the deranged

>man known as the Tech drove his metallic red Ferarri along the<br>recently built highway leading to the town of Chartreuse.

><br>Barelling down the main street`s exit, he barely slowed down as

>he entered town, immediately grabbing the attention of the local<br>officer Jenny who pursued him with her motorcycle, all warning

>lights flashing. In a loud screech of Vulpirelli tires burning<br>rubber, he stopped on a dime and awaited the police officer to

>walk up to his car.<br>

>Just like clockwork, the blue haired constable stepped off

her<br>bike, taking her helmet off as she approached and knocked on his window. At the touch of a button, the tinted glass rolled down<br>and he contemptuously looked at her through mirrored glasses.

><br>"Yes?" he asked with a mocking grin.

><br>"Do you have any idea how FAST you were going?" the officer asked

>him with stone cold calm.<br>

>"I don't know, my speedometer doesn't go above 160 kph." he said<br>in a very tasteless manner.

><br>"Then you won't be too surprised by the big ticket you just got

>yourself, buster." she replied. "I'll need to see your permit and<br>identification."

><br>The driver handed over the requested documents, but never let go

>of his arrogant expression as she filled out the lines of the<br>traffic regulation violation paperwork.

><br>"Here you are, hotshot, a speeding ticket to match the size of

>your ego." she said as she handed over the pink slip of paper<br>after returning the personal documents to the driver.

><br>The Tech grinned even wider as he looked at her from top to bottom,

>laughing as he reached for the ticket. "It was worth the fine just<br>to get to see such a sexy lady in action." he observed. As he

>pulled on the ticket, he felt resistance. Jenny was holding on to<br>the piece of paper, her eyes burning with anger.

><br>"Just be careful not to do anything stupid again. I'm the law in

>these parts, and I'd hate to have to ARREST you and show you the<br>full extent of my DISCRETIONARY powers." she threatened him with

>a smile before letting go of the ticket and heading back for her<br>bike.

><br>"Bitch." grumbled the Tech before tossing the pink paper slip on

>the back seat to join several more tickets from various regions,<br>all of them with eerily similar handwriting.

><br>\* \* \*

><br>Misty was sitting silently at a table in a corner, looking quite

>embarrassed at the incident that had taken place. The cafeteria<br>was dreadfully silent save for the hushed whispers exchanged by

>the other trainers present. Misty pretended not to hear them,<br>but she could tell they were all talking about her. Her outburst<br>of panic had made quite an impression, and she was still a bit<br>shaken from it.

><br>She held Togepi on her lap, the little hatchling pokémon hugging

>her lovingly, though she barely noticed. The water trainer almost<br>didn't see the blue haired girl sitting down in front of her

>either, still lost in thought and self-pity.<br>

>"Where do I even start saying how sorry I am?" said Juniper,<br>nervously breaking the ice.

><br>"I'm the one who should apologize. We were having a great time

>until I screamed my head off like a panicked idiot."  
replied<br>Misty, avoiding to look the bug trainer in the eyes.

><br>"I precipitated everything by doing the one thing you hate most,  
>shoving a bug in your face. Even if it was an accident, it  
doesn't<br>change that it happened anyway." said Juniper.

><br>Misty looked up and saw Juniper's genuine concern reflecting in  
her  
>expression.<br>

>"You really love bugs, don't you?" asked Misty who noticed her  
new<br>friend nervously fidgetting a pokeball.

><br>"Yes, I do." she replied, placing the ball on the table. It had

>a pretty sticker on the red half, looking like a bee with  
silver<br>sparkles shining on it. "I'm especially attached to this  
one."

><br>Misty felt a bit nervous knowing that there was an insect within  
that ball, but she could see how much the pokemon meant to  
Juniper.<br>In a way, it helped her overcome her phobia somewhat.

><br>"How did you find it?" she asked.

><br>"Dad gave it to me." Juniper replied. "When I turned ten three

>years ago, he took me to the woods near our home, and he  
captured<br>one to show me how it was done. We found this little  
Weedle, and

>he trapped it into a pokeball... the following day, he  
registered<br>me as a trainer like I'd been bugging him to do for  
years, and he

>gave me the Weedle as my first one."<br>

>"You've had it with you since then?" wondered Misty.<br>

>"Yeah. Over time it turned into a Kakuna, then a beautiful  
Beedrill.<br>I love it very much, and we're always together." said  
Juniper.

><br>"Your dad must be proud of you, being successful like that."

><br>"Thank you, Misty... I know he is. I have worked incredibly hard

>for those badges I got over the years, and I always look  
forward<br>to earn more and hone my skills, as well as train my  
little friend

>to be the very best Beedrill there is."<br>

>Despite her fear of bugs nagging incessantly, her curiosity  
was<br>growing rapidly. This bug had to be very special to have  
captured

>the love of this wonderful girl.<br>

>"Can I... see it?" wondered Misty hesitantly.<br>

>"Are you sure? It's still a bug, you know..."<br>

>"I'm aware of it, so I won't be caught off guard this time."  
she<br>said, laughing nervously. "I just won't touch it."

><br>"Okay, just tell me if this creeps you out too much then." said

>Juniper as she tapped on the ball and a Beedrill popped out.<br>

>The bug trainer opened her arms and the bug rushed to her,

its  
mistress hugging it tenderly. It was a bit disturbing to Misty,  
>seeing such a large bug from up close, but at the same time it  
had a touching quality. Their bond was undeniable, and had been  
>forged through time and trials, just like her own pokemon.  
>Misty smiled.  
>"I`ll just make sure that my little darlings keep some distance  
<br>from you, how does that sound?" offered Juniper.  
><br>"You`ve got yourself a deal, Juniper." agreed Misty.  
><br>Ash was looking at them from across the cafeteria, Pikachu  
>stuffing himself with apple pieces he was happily dipping in  
a small bowl of ketchup. The young trainer smiled, it looked  
>like the other two trainers would get along after all.  
>\* \* \*  
>It walked alone in the Chartreuse valley woods, growling  
loudly  
>to make its superiority known to all the local wildlife.  
><br>"DRAGONIX!" roared the immense rock pokemon, scaring off a small  
>flock of pidgeys from the surrounding bushes.  
>The Dragonix dug its claws in the thin layer of dirt, leaving  
<br>severe gashes in the bedrock underneath and marking its  
territory.  
><br>Having scared off the Onixes of the area, the huge dragonlike  
>pokemon was very satisfied with itself. There was no one  
more  
>powerful than itself in the valley.  
><br>Well, almost no one.  
><br>--Dragonix...--  
><br>The large juggernaut looked around, it had heard its name  
calling  
>out in a soft whisper.  
>--Yes, you did hear me, didn`t you?--  
>The voice didn`t seem to come from anywhere in particular,  
it  
>just echoed gently inside its head. The pokemon knew it  
belonged  
>to its master, the one single being he would obey.  
>--Return to me, my precious. You`ve had a nice stomp around  
our  
>home, but it`s time to come back now.-- said the voice, tender  
>whisper that made so much sense to the Dragonix`s mind.  
>Without wasting time, the pokemon turned around and walked back  
to  
>the place he knew was home. The voice was rewarding for its  
action,  
>calling it back.  
>--Yes, my pretty, that`s it, come back to me...--  
>The Dragonix made its way to an abandonned mining shaft  
whose  
>existance dated back to several centuries, having gone into  
disuse  
>after more convenient sources of ore had been found in  
other  
>regions. It stopped at the entrance, a pair of glowing red  
eyes  
>welcoming it through the darkness of the main entrance`s tunnel.  
>"Welcome back, my child." the voice whispered.  
>The Dragonix bellowed, but not in anger or fear... rather in what

<br>could be best identified as respect. It walked into the mine  
>shaft opening, acting in a way befitting a well trained pet.<br>

>\* \* \*<br>

>Underneath the Viridian city gym, nobody suspected that the  
once<br>disused underground tunnels had been converted into a  
high-tech  
>laboratory now in the service of the infamous Team Rocket.  
Very<br>few people knew of that lab, most of Team Rocket itself being  
kept  
>in the dark about its existance save for the actual staff and<br>the  
secretive Giovanni.

><br>The leader of Team Rocket had the entrances well dissimulated,

>such as the elevator installed in the shower of his personal  
<br>bathroom within the gym. Requiring palm print identification, no

>one without authorization would be able to access it.<br>

>Once the elevator opened to the main access corridor, the dim  
<br>lights combined with the overhanging smell of chemicals, moisture

>and other unidentifiable odors would seize the visitors  
and<br>assault their senses with an unmistakable impression that  
there

>was evil at work there.<br>

>Giovanni stepped off his elevator alone. Although he normally  
kept<br>his Persian with him at all times, this was one place where  
he

>didn't want his precious pet to visit. If the cat pokemon  
got<br>caught in an accident, the results would be... unpleasant.

><br>All over the place, biohazard warning signs were slapped across

>the various doors, radioactive product storerooms were side  
by<br>side with computer material warehouses and all across the  
secret

>compound were pokemon cages. As Giovanni walked past the  
holding<br>pens, the pokemon trapped within instinctively reacted in  
fear,

>cowering in the corners. Some of them had been used in  
horrid<br>experiment themselves, though most of them feared the human

>scientists from hearing the other test subjects` screams of  
pain,<br>as well as seeing the dead bodies hauled out of the labs.  
The

>smarter specimens knew that their turn would come sooner or  
later.<br>

>This secret had an extremely high death rate among its  
test<br>subjects, although this did not surprise those who had access  
to

>the research data.<br>

>The Team Rocket leader walked right past them without  
blinking,<br>failing to express the smallest amount of compassion.  
These little

>creatures were nothing to him except pawns to be sacrificed in<br>a  
chess game of power, means to an end. He`d build the staircase  
>to his ultimate triumph out of their dead bodies if he needed  
to<br>do so, and wouldn't think twice about it either.

><br>He did not hesitate as he walked across the length of the hidden

>compound, going straight to the one door with the heaviest  
<br>security. Requiring palm print and retina scan confirmations,

>Giovanni's most secretive project was housed within walls made  
of<br>the strongest alloys known to science.

><br>"Identity confirmed. You may enter." whispered a soft male  
computer

>generated voice as the heavy deadbolts unlocked and the doors  
opened<br>in a loud noise of grinding steel.

><br>"Professor Murdock..." he said as he entered the lab, looking  
around

>to find the project leader.<br>

>"I`m here, sir!" said an aging man whose step betrayed nothing  
of<br>his advanced age, unlike his parchment-like skin. "Why the  
personal

>visit, wouldn't a phone call save you the trouble of coming all  
the<br>way down here?"

><br>Giovanni stood silently in front of him, his unblinking stare

>making the old man rapidly uncomfortable.<br>

>"Have you need of subject M-2?" he asked hesitantly.<br>

>The hard cold eyes of the Rocket leader turned aside for a  
brief<br>instant, looking at the unique pokemon specimen held within  
the

>most high-tech containment money could buy. Even with  
this<br>exceptionally powerful barrier in place, the large beast was

>restrained through shackles and a special helmet to hinder  
its<br>immense psychic prowess. Giovanni repressed a shudder at the

>thought of this creature ever escaping his control.<br>

>"No." he replied, returning his attention to Murdock. "I`m  
here<br>to ask you some explanations about another subject... PD-42  
to

>be exact."<br>

>The old man gulped when he remembered which specimen  
Giovanni<br>referred to.

><br>"I sincerely apologize for this one specimen managing to escape

>our facility, but I sincerely doubt that we should be worried  
at<br>all about this." he tried to explain.

><br>"How do you figure this incompetence to be somehow ACCEPTABLE?

>What if M-2 itself was to escape? A simple apology would  
be<br>enough to make up for all our deaths, I suppose?" scolded the

>menacing man.<br>

>"This is irrelevant, PD-42 was a complete failure, no  
enhanced<br>abilities, no special powers and not even any  
intelligence to

>speak of... in short, a complete vegetable, stupider still than<br>a  
plant pokemon! Its contribution to the Hyperion project was

>abysmal at best!" he argued.<br>

>"So let me get this straight... you allowed yourself to  
be<br>outsmarted by a mental midget who'd lose a battle of wits  
against

>a coffee mug?" snarled Giovanni.<br>

>Murdock wondered for a second if the escaped subject might have

<br>been smarter than he seemed, hiding its newfound brains to escape  
>its captors... but the scientist dared not mention that  
possibility<br>as it would be worse still than what he was being  
blamed for  
>already.<br>  
>"We'll get it back sooner or later. It has been implanted with  
an<br>ID chip just like all the others." said the old man.

><br>"You better make it sooner, or you might not be around later."

>threatened Giovanni.<br>  
>\* \* \*<br>  
>"I think we should give professor Oak a call. He might have  
some<br>insight about that new pokemon that Juniper saw." suggested  
Misty.  
><br>"Yeah, besides, we promised to call him as soon as we got here.  
We  
>haven't done that yet, he's probably worried sick by now."  
agreed<br>Ash.  
><br>"Pika!" nodded the cute yellow mouse.  
><br>Locating the pokemon center's phone, Ash sat in front of the  
video  
>monitor and punched in the professor's number. It took several  
rings<br>before he received an answer.  
><br>"Yes? Hello?" answered the professor, looking surprised and  
confused.  
><br>"Hi, professor. This is Ash calling from Chartreuse." he said.  
><br>"Chartreuse? Goodness, what are you doing there?" he asked, then  
>slapped his forehead and laughed nervously as he remembered.  
"Oh<br>yes, the new pokemon species. My, I'd forgotten about that."  
><br>Standing behind Ash, Misty and Juniper sighed.  
><br>"Is he ALWAYS that absent-minded?" whispered Juniper to Misty.  
><br>"No, he's not usually that quick to figure out what's going on."  
>she replied with a giggle.<br>  
>"So, what have you discovered so far?" asked the professor who  
was<br>trying to push away a small meowth. The pokemon was purring in  
>curiosity, clawing at the research papers on his desk.<br>  
>"We've met someone who actually saw it with her own eyes!!!!"  
said<br>Misty as she pushed Ash aside to get a few words in edgewise.  
><br>"Hi, I'm Juniper!" said the blue haired girl.  
><br>"Hello there, young lady! Misty tells me you SAW a new specie?"  
>said the professor with great interest.<br>  
>"Yes, it was a rock pokemon, the pokedex didn't even recognize  
it."<br>she explained, reaching for her electronic encyclopedia. "It  
should  
>be captured in my pokedex, I could transmit you the image I  
snapped<br>when I tried to identify it."  
><br>"Good idea! And while the data's transmitting, maybe you could  
have  
>a word with a good friend of Ash and Misty's who's working with  
me<br>right now, he's a specialist in rock types, and has great

insight

>in evolution matters." said the professor, calling over to the  
a very familiar man with spiky black hair and eyes squinting so

>bad that you could almost swear he was blind.<br>

>"Hey Brock!" said Misty. "How are you?"<br>

>"Doing great, guys! The professor says you have a friend who  
saw<br>a new pokemon specie?" he asked.

><br>"Yeah, that would be me!" said Juniper as she pushed aside Ash

>who fell from his chair, the blue haired girl swiftly taking  
his<br>place.

><br>"Whoa... she's goooooooorgeous... lemme help you any way I can,

>let's discuss this over dinner and a movie!" said the  
lecherous<br>breeder, all traces of common sense erradicated from his  
lovestruck  
>mind.<br>

>"Down, boy." said Misty with a mischievous grin.<br>

>Juniper sighed and looked at Pikachu. "Are ALL of your  
friends<br>completely nuts?"

><br>The pokemon laughed nervously. "Chuuu..." he said with an  
obvious

>sarcasm that was easily noticeable even to someone who  
couldn't<br>understand what pokemon said.

><br>\* \* \*

><br>Parked behind a chinese restaurant, the former Sylph research

>scientist waited for his contacts to arrive. The Tech had been  
told<br>by Giovanni to expect the worst, although nothing could quite

>prepare him for the Team Rocket experience.<br>

>Halfway through his pineapple chicken container, he noticed  
three<br>figures stepping out of the shadows and into the range of  
his rear

>view mirror. Two of them were human, and the third stood  
barely<br>one foot tall, obviously a pokemon. All three wore  
trenchcoats and

>matching hats, looking like rejects from a bad fifties private  
eye<br>movie.

><br>"These guys can't be serious..." thought the Tech as he put his

>food on the dashboard and stared at the trio in disbelief.

The<br>three of them slowly lifted their head up, showing dark  
sunglasses

>which they took off smoothly in perfect synch with each other.<br>

>"Dear god, they are." he sighed.<br>

>Jessie, James and Meowth joined the cynical agent at his car,  
doing<br>their best to look cool and prove their motto, "style over

>substance."<br>

>"Jessie, James and Meowth, I presume?" he asked after lowering  
his<br>door window.

><br>"That's us!" said Meowth with a fanged grin.

><br>"He recognized us!" said James with a happy giggle.

><br>"Yeah, whatever." snapped the Tech, giving them an impression  
that

>he didn't care about their reputation. That impression was  
right<br>too. "Giovanni sent you three to scope the new specie, so

where

>can I find it?"<br>

>The blue haired boy and the red haired girl looked at each other<br>nervously.

><br>"You DO know where to find it, right?" asked the Tech, opening

>his car door and stepping out. He was taller than the two of them<br>by well over a foot and a half, his all black clothes further

>increasing the menacing impression.<br>

>"Well, we do know WHERE it is..." blurted James.<br>

>"We're just not sure if it's such a good idea to go back there."<br>said Meowth.

><br>"We wouldn't want you to get hurt by that... thing. The boss

>would be none too pleased if his best agent got killed, you know."<br>quickly added Jessie to make herself and her teammates look less

>cowardly. "We didn't think that..."<br>

>"You think too much, and it's not your strongest asset to begin <br>with." interrupted the cynical agent who reached inside his car to

>get the small briefcase on the back seat among the huge number of <br>speeding and parking tickets. "Damn, these things must add up

>to well over two thousand bucks. It's a good thing I don't care."<br>

>Jessie looked at James, looking visibly annoyed. James shrugged<br>his shoulders, unable to come up with a way to impress the agent

>who was treating them like dirt. Even by Team Rocket standards,<br>this was pretty insulting.

><br>"Look buddy, if you want to get yourself trampled into the ground,

>I'll be happy to show you the way there. It's YOUR funeral." snapped<br>Meowth with a rather angry look on his feline face.

><br>The Tech smiled. "Well, one of you has an ounce of sense." he said,

>placing his briefcase on his car hood and opening it. It contained<br>six pokeballs, three of which seemed perfectly normal, but the other

>three were strange models that the bumbling trio had never seen<br>before.

><br>"What are THOSE?" Jessie asked.

><br>"I call these hyper balls. I upgraded some ultra balls using what

>I could remember from the Masterball prototype designs. It's not<br>perfect, but if my aim is good, it's a sure capture every time."

>he explained as he picked one up and showed it to the red haired<br>girl.

><br>"If they work so well, why do you say they're not perfect?"

>wondered James.<br>

>"Simple. If I miss, they explode like grenades. Think fast!!!" he<br>replied, picking up another pokeball from his briefcase and tossing

>it swiftly in James' direction. The blue haired boy screamed in<br>terror as he leapt forward to catch before it hit the ground,

>narrowly grabbing it by sliding over a yard on his stomach  
arms<br>reaching forward.  
><br>"Good catch, genius." said the Tech, laughing his head off. "My

>Snorlax almost came out of his ball."<br>  
>James fumed when he realized that the ball he had in his hands  
was<br>nothing more than a regular pokeball.  
><br>"You may not be half as incompetent as I heard." added the agent  
in  
>black as he snatched up the ball irreverently after stashing  
the<br>three empty hyper balls in his jacket pockets.  
><br>\* \* \*  
><br>It took a while for Brock to get over his initial reaction when  
he  
>saw the very cute bug trainer, but eventually he did get around  
to<br>tell them a few useful tips on how to handle situations  
involving  
>unknown species. He finally promised them that he'd be willing  
to<br>help the professor study this new specie if they managed to  
capture  
>a specimen, though not to take any stupid risks in doing so.<br>  
>"Okay, I guess we're ready to go now. I really want to  
capture<br>that Dragonix you saw." said Ash after turning off the  
videophone.  
><br>"I think we have nothing left to do but go in that bug infested  
forest now." said Misty, shuddering at the thought of all  
the<br>creepy crawlies she dreaded to see.  
><br>"Just a sec!" said Juniper, sipping the last drop in her cup.  
><br>"Isn't that thing cold by now?" asked Ash.  
><br>"It would be, if it was still the same cup you got me when I  
>limped in." replied the bug trainer, laughing. "You really  
think<br>I could go through the day on a SINGLE cup? That's  
ridiculous,  
>especially with the weak coffee you get in pokemon centers."<br>  
>"So, you're ready now, I hope?" said Ash, looking  
decidedly<br>impatient.  
><br>"Of course I am." she said.  
><br>Their pokemon were equally enthusiastic about this new adventure  
about to begin.<br>  
>"Pikachu!"<br>  
>"Beedrill!"<br>  
>"You guys think that these bozos who distracted the Dragonix  
for<br>me will show up again? I mean, they got banged up pretty  
badly..."  
>said Juniper.<br>  
>"Knowing them... it's not a matter of IF, but rather of WHEN  
they<br>show up." sighed Misty.  
><br>"Let's go. We have a long day ahead." said Ash with a smile.  
><br>  
>To be continued...<br>

End  
file.